

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Ingrid de Meyer, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Community Development	

The purpose of this report is to update Board members regarding the current situation facing the Cotswold Preschool and Nursery. This relates to the Christchurch City Council Early Childhood Policy (1998). Childcare services are a part of a community's support system. The Council's commitment to Early Childhood Education contributes to a number of strategic objectives in the 1999 Annual Plan. The strategic objectives have reference to education, social, community cohesion and a number of associated health, recreational and leisure objectives.

### BACKGROUND

Cotswold Preschool and Nursery (ex St Gregory's Creche) is situated in Colesbury Street, Bishopdale. The facility the Preschool operate from is owned by St Gregory's Church, for which a rental is paid.

The Preschool runs independently of the Church, is community managed, operates on a not-for-profit basis. They cater for approximately 84 families.

Board members may recall that St Gregory's Church **was** to redevelop the Church Hall, and associated land, the Creche is based in. However, over the past **two** years discussions between the Church and the Creche have resulted in the Church now deciding to sell the building to the Creche. The facility is in a very good location in that the Creche, local Kindergarten and Primary School are all very close by. Also over the past two years the demand for the Creche, the local Kindergarten and Primary School has increased. The roll at the Creche was 70 and is now 84.

The Fendalton/Waimairi ward areas have only **two** community not-for-profit creches in the area, namely Bishopdale and Cotswold.

The Bishopdale Community Creche was assisted by the Council and the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board a number of years ago into a Council owned facility.

As outlined, negotiations are presently underway regarding the sale of the building to the Creche. The proposed amount is not currently known. The Creche over numerous years of fundraising by voluntary committees have some monies available. However, it is fair to assume there will be a funding shortfall.

### COUNCIL PROCESS/ROLE(S)

The Council through the Early Childhood Education Policy can provide financial assistance to purchase such facilities. Accordingly, this project was also identified in the Board's Planning Statement for 1999/2000 although still subject to approval in the Council's annual planning process.

The Cotswold Preschool and Nursery meet current Council criteria for support.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information is received.
  2. That the Board assist and support the Cotswold Preschool and Nursery in purchasing the ex St Gregory's Church facility.
  3. That the Board consider project funding allocation in February/March 2000 as a contribution to achieving 2 above.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.